(b) if so, whether this group was set up to make recommendations to Government on this issue;

(c) whether recommendations have been considered whereas small hike in oil prices has been recommended to offset the huge losses being suffered by oil PSUs in the face of spiraling global crude prices; and

(d) if so, by when final decision in this regard is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Government in November, 2007 constituted a Group of Ministers (GoMs) to consider the issues relating to prices of petroleum products. Based on the recommendations of the GoMs, Government has increased the prices of petrol and diesel by Rs. 2/litre and Re. 1/litre respectively with effect from 15.2.2008 which is actually in the nature of a restoration of retail prices of these products to the price level operating before February, 2007.

The global prices of crude oil and petroleum products have remained high and volatile since 2004. In view of this, the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are incurring heavy under-recoveries on domestic sale of sensitive petroleum products; namely petrol, diesel, PDS kerosene and domestic LPG. As passing on the entire impact of the steep increase in the oil prices to the consumers would have resulted in inflationary impact, the Government has taken certain measures to ensure that the burden was shared by all the stakeholders.

Accordingly, the Government has issued Oil Bonds and Upstream Oil Companies have contributed by offering discount on crude oil and petroleum products, to partially compensate the under-recoveries of OMCs as per the details given below:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Oil Bonds issued by Government	Contribution by Upstream Oil Companies
2005-06	11500	1400
2006-07	24121	20507
Apr.-Dec.'07	11257*	15873#
TOTAL	46878	50380

*For Apr.-Sep. '07

#Apr.-Dec. '07 (Provisional)

ADB's endorsement for gas pipeline project

594. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Asian Development Bank (ADB) had proposed the Gas Pipeline Framework Agreement (GPFA) for India's endorsement in respect of the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline project;

(b) whether there has been undue delay in clearing the project; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) The next meeting of the Steering Committee of the participating countries of Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan (India) TAP(I) Gas Pipeline Project would consider, *inter alia*, endorsement of the new Gas Pipeline Framework Agreement between all the participating countries which will formalize India's participation in the project.

Such multilateral projects invovle protracted discussions, as all the aspects have to be carefully examined and deliberated upon to the satisfaction of the participating countries to protect each country's interests and avoid any problems in the future in the successful operation of the project.

Development of tourism in Rajasthan

†595. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has fixed any budget for development of different tourist areas in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details of budget, such places and targets fixed thereof;

(c) whether a proposal regarding developing new tourist places in Rajasthan has been submitted by the State Government of Rajasthan; and

(d) if so, the districts for which proposals of development of different tourists places in Rajasthan have been received by the Central Government and out of them, the tourist places for which development scheme has been formulated by the Central Government and the target fixed thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) No State-wise budget for development of tourism is fixed by Ministry of Tourism. However, the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for tourism related projects, which are identified in consultation and interaction with them.

Project proposals received from the State Governments/Union Territories that are complete in all respect are approved on the basis of *inter-se* priority and funds released subject to availability under respective head.

(c) and (d) No proposal from the Government of Rajasthan for development and promotion of tourism complete in all respects is pending with the Ministry of tourism.

Shortage of Five Star Hotels in Delhi

596. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a shortage of Five Star Hotels in Delhi in view of the comming Commonwealth Games 2010;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of rooms required for Commonwealth Games; and

(d) what are the steps Government is taking in this regard?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.